

at the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel; and Adam Klein, nominated to be chair, who is a fellow at the Center for New American Security.

I have concerns about some of the policy perspectives the Republican nominees hold. In this case, however, a functioning PCLOB with board members who listen to dissenting views is better than the status quo, where the five-member board has only one member. The PCLOB has been dormant for most of the current administration and regrettably—and in contrary to its statutory mission—has not made all of its previously investigated and written reports public. I look forward to working with the new board members to returning the PCLOB to its core mission of public oversight of classified programs.

Additionally, I am particularly grateful for Professor Felten's confirmation. The presence of a true public servant technologist on the PCLOB will hopefully raise awareness and understanding surrounding controversial surveillance programs that use advanced technology.

In the coming weeks and months, I will be working with the new board members on the critical issues of privacy, security, and secret interpretations of public law. It is my sincere hope that the new members share my deeply held belief that the government should not have classified interpretations of public laws that cause the programs to operate differently than the public understands.

S. 3021

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the passage of the bipartisan America's Water Infrastructure Act, more commonly called the 2018 WRDA bill, is celebrated by a wide spectrum of supporters, including environmental organizations, national associations representing cities and counties, and water and coastal business associations.

I would like to commend the chairman, the ranking member, and the staff of the Environment and Public Works Committee for their hard work on this bill. I appreciate their consideration of my requests and their willingness to work with my staff in ensuring Rhode Island's needs are well represented in the final WRDA bill.

In particular, the American Water Infrastructure Act includes my provision directing the Army Corps of Engineers to study the resiliency of harbors of refuge and hurricane barriers in the North Atlantic, like the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, that are under threat from rising sea levels and stronger storm surge. Though they may be able to endure current conditions, extra feet of sea level rise coupled with stronger storm surges will overpower the capabilities of many of these structures. We need to get ahead of these consequences of climate change and protect our coastal commu-

nities, instead of waiting for these barriers to fail and imperil coastal homes and businesses.

As oceans overtake our coastal infrastructure, we will also need to look to new and innovative building materials and techniques that can endure corrosive saltwater and other harsh environmental conditions. This WRDA bill also includes my provision requiring the Corps to submit a report to Congress summarizing its research and investments in innovative materials, like Rhode Island-created composites, in-water infrastructure projects, and recommend in which Army Corps projects those materials could be used.

This year's WRDA bill also instructs the Corps to study the extent to which it has made use of its authority to clean up waterways littered with marine debris, like the deteriorating wooden pilings in the Providence River. It also expedites the completion of important projects and studies in Rhode Island, like the Providence River dredging project, Pawcatuck coastal risk management study, and the Rhode Island historical structure flood hazard vulnerability assessment that will bolster Rhode Island's coastal economy and prepare it for future conditions.

Overall, the bill does well to give special consideration to coastal communities, also requiring the Corps to consider natural infrastructure solutions to flood and storm damage risk reduction projects, prioritize coastal erosion mitigation projects in New England, and assess coastal resiliency needs for the Great Lakes. Though only 17 percent of total land area, the United States' coastal counties are home to over half of the U.S. population and were responsible for 48 percent of the country's GDP in 2017. Investing in our coasts is an investment in the well-being of the entire country's economy.

I am also grateful this bill includes a focus on our water infrastructure. In addition to reauthorizing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and WIFIA programs, it also creates a new water financing opportunity that will better support water infrastructure projects in small-and medium-sized communities. I am, proud to be a co-sponsor of the SRF WIN Act which creates this new program and thank Senators BOOZMAN and BOOKER for their leadership on this issue.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, the Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Rhode Islanders as we move towards implementing this important infrastructure bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this week the Senate completed work on America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, a new water resources development bill that authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works activities and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.

The legislation will invest in numerous infrastructure projects in Mary-

land and across the country and includes funding to repair aging drinking water, wastewater, and irrigation systems, protect Americans from dangerous floodwaters, and increase public participation and State funding flexibility in local infrastructure projects.

This bill rejects the Trump administration's proposed reclassification of the Poplar Island restoration project, which could imperil the progress of this national model for restoration success located in Talbot County and extends the original 7-year authorization of the Mid-Bay Islands Ecosystem Restoration Project, focused on James and Barren Islands in Dorchester County, by an additional 3 years, to total 10 years.

To allow for greater involvement of local governments in project selection, the bill requires the Army Corps of Engineers to increase public participation by, at a minimum, holding annual public meetings at the district level, providing information about the administration's budget requests, and allowing non-Federal interests the opportunity to collaborate and share in concept development and decision making to solve problems.

The bill also authorizes \$8 million in new EPA grants through a Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program for water systems that will assist in planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance to improve resilience to natural hazards.

I am pleased to support this bill, and I look forward to working with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure more transparency in the process.

CONFIRMATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today regarding remarks I made on October 5, 2018, on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh. In reference to Justices O'Connor, Souter, and Kennedy, I misspoke and should have said that pro-choice groups opposed two of the nominations, not each.

My remarks should have read, "Furthermore, pro-choice groups vigorously opposed two of the Justices' nominations."

TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, small businesses are thriving in one of the best economic climates that we have seen in several years. The National Federation of Independent Business's Small Business Optimism Index for August saw its highest reading ever over its 45-year history and the MetLife and Chamber of Commerce's most recent quarterly Small Business Index found that a substantial majority of small business owners have a positive outlook of their business and of the overall economy.

I believe that this uptick in small business confidence is due in large part

to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed the Senate and was signed into law last year. Over the 9 months since its passage, our country has witnessed the positive impact that the law has had on our economy. Companies of all sizes have directly benefited from various provisions of the law and as a result are paying out bonuses, raising wages, and purchasing new equipment for their businesses. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I was a strong supporter of the tax law because I believed it would allow small business owners to keep more of their hard-earned money, make more investments in their businesses, and increase the overall health of our economy. Over the last few months, I have been making this series of speeches to draw attention to the benefits this law provides for small businesses.

Since passage of the law, many observers have given too much attention to individuals and corporations that have benefited from certain provisions of the law, but not nearly enough attention has been given to the benefits that small businesses have received. I rise today to spotlight how tax reform is benefiting Sko-Die, Inc., a small business located just outside of Chicago in Morton Grove, IL. Sko-Die, Inc., provides their customers with high-quality steel laminations, heavy gauge metal stampings, and machining services. From design to production, the company provides original equipment manufacturing services for a variety of sectors including the food, power generation, medical, and aerospace industries. Sko-Die is a family-run business started in 1947 by the Steininger family. The current president, Patrick Steininger, has led the company since 2002 and is the third generation of the family to helm the company. Sko-Die has about 70 employees, boasts a 60,000-thousand-square foot production facility, and operates numerous punch presses ranging in size from 5 to 300 tons.

Because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, this family-owned custom metal stamping business has been able to pass on some its tax savings to employees, raising the average wages of its employees by about 3 percent. Sko-Die also made a \$1 million investment in new equipment, which included a new die grinder and a new metal press. Before the implementation of the new tax law, small businesses had to deal with a complex expensing formula that took many years to take advantage of, which made equipment purchases much less attractive to small business owners. The accelerated depreciation of equipment purchases for small businesses is one of the many reasons that I was a strong supporter of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Overall, the new tax law has been good for small businesses; has allowed many small businesses to increase their capital investments, hire additional workers, and increase wages;

and will lower small businesses' annual tax payments. I am happy to see that small businesses like Sko-Die, Inc., are able to reduce their tax burden by making use of this accelerated depreciation provision and are using those tax savings to raise its employees' wages. I look forward to watching the company's continued success.

THE KOREAN WAR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to honor the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, which brought the active hostilities of the Korean war to an end.

Americans don't talk much about the Korean war today. As a result, too many have forgotten or never knew the history, how Kim Il-sung's forces invaded South Korea in June 1950; how the United Nations Security Council condemned the invasion; how American troops made an amphibious landing at Inchon, driving the North Korean forces back and helping shift the war's momentum; how 3 years later, representatives met in Panmunjom where they established a demilitarized zone and ended active hostilities.

Because this history is so often overlooked, American men and women who served in Korea have so rarely been given the recognition they deserve.

These are Americans who answered the call to take up arms again in a foreign country so soon after World War II, Americans who endured the bitter cold and harsh weather up and down the Peninsula and the lack of adequate food, Americans who gave their lives by the thousands on Korea's far-flung shores in service to their country. All told, more than 36,000 Americans perished in the Korean war, including more than 270 Oregonians and at least seven from Umatilla County, OR.

The Korean war is often called the Forgotten War.

Well, it isn't forgotten by me. It isn't forgotten by the U.S. Senate. I am proud to say that it isn't forgotten by the Oregonians I speak with as I travel around our State.

I have never met a Korean war veteran—or a veteran of any conflict—who walked onto the battlefield seeking personal recognition.

Today I am proud to recognize these brave servicemembers nonetheless.

This year marks the 65th year since the signing of the Korean War Armistice and the end of active hostilities.

As we follow new developments on the Korean Peninsula—and there have been many these past few months—let us reflect on the Americans who fought so bravely and endured so much in service to these United States.

I have always believed that the Federal Government owes these men and women a debt it cannot fully repay. The closest I think we can come is to honor our commitments to them and to do right by their brothers and sisters who continue to wear the uniform.

As we look forward to Veterans Day, let us all take a moment to thank those Korean war veterans still with us and to ensure that their service and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this month, I join the Nation in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and the invaluable contributions of the Latino community to our country. Hispanic Americans comprise an integral part of the United States and form our Nation's largest ethnic minority. An estimated 60 million Latinos and Latinas currently live in the U.S., making our country home to the world's third largest Latino population. More than half a million of my fellow Marylanders identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Some of our Hispanic residents are recent arrivals to this country, seeking safety and freedom unavailable in their countries of origin. Others trace their roots to our country's founding. All play a role in helping to shape our country for the better. Latino and Latinas form a crucial part of our Nation's Armed Forces, dutifully serve at all levels of government, play an active role in their local communities, and Hispanic-owned businesses contribute an estimated \$473 billion in revenue to our economy and employ millions of people. Diversity is America's strength, and our thriving Hispanic communities are evidence of this.

In spite of these contributions, many in the Latina and Latino community are suffering or being put at unnecessary risk due to the administration's policies. Cruel immigration practices have led to families being torn apart. Millions of Dreamers live in constant fear that they will be removed from the only country they have ever known. The decision to remove Temporary Protected Status, TPS, for El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti worsens our national security and injects unnecessary fear and uncertainty into American families based on politics, rather than policy. Maryland alone would lose well over \$1 billion from our State's GDP without the workers who currently hold TPS. In Puerto Rico, over 3,000 American citizens died from the effects of Hurricane Maria, and the island still struggles to recover. Hispanic Americans increasingly face risks from prejudice, racism, and bigotry. Such policies and rhetoric directly undermine the values on which our country was founded.

Hispanics and Latinos bear the disproportionate effects of these policies, and the entire country suffers as a result. When some of our best and brightest young students and our Nation's hardest workers fear for their future or are forced into the shadows, it can have a lasting and harmful effect on our communities, our economy, and our security.

Hispanic Heritage Month marks a time to address these issues with